

**DEPARTMENT
POLICY****FAP**

The Michigan Combined Application Project (MiCAP) is a Food Assistance demonstration project approved by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). MiCAP is a series of waivers that allows Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to issue Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) individuals who qualify for this program.

The program is administered by the centrally located MiCAP unit. Final eligibility determination and redeterminations are the responsibility of the MiCAP unit.

All eligibility factors in this item must be met.

**MiCAP Targeted
Population**

The targeted MiCAP population is SSI individuals with the following characteristics:

- Age 18 or older.
- Receives SSI income and no other type of income.
- Meets the Social Security Administrations (SSA) definition of independent living (Living arrangement code A).
- Resides in Michigan.
- Purchases and prepares food separately.

**Application of
MiCAP**

A simplified application form, DHS-513, Michigan Combined Application Project (MiCAP), is used when determining eligibility for MiCAP. The MiCAP unit automatically sends a DHS-513 to all SSI individuals who may qualify when their SSI case is opened in Bridges informing them of the program and giving them the opportunity to apply for MiCAP.

**ELIGIBILITY
DETERMINATION**

The MiCAP unit determines eligibility for MiCAP whenever it receives a DHS-513.

The MiCAP unit registers the application and determines FAP eligibility at application and redetermination. Once an individual has been determined eligible, a Bridge card will be issued if an individual has never received one.

Clients may receive only one free replacement Bridge card during their lifetime. Clients' available benefits will be reduced to cover the cost of all subsequent replacement cards, with no exceptions granted.

The MiCAP unit is responsible for:

- Running the MiCAP Application Report (Social Security Administration interface) daily and mailing the DHS-513 to individuals on the report.
- Completing a file clearance to determine if an individual has an active FAP case.
- Registering the application on Bridges.
- Completing the case actions and certifying eligibility in Bridges.
- Referring individuals to customer service at 1-888-678-8914 to assign a Bridge card personal identification number and for Bridge card replacements.
- Maintaining the MiCAP case record.
- Completing redeterminations.

BENEFITS**Benefit Period**

Once an individual is determined eligible for MiCAP, eligibility will be for a 36-month benefit period. A redetermination of eligibility will be completed every 36 months. Food Assistance benefits continue for the duration of the benefit period unless an individual is no longer eligible for MiCAP or fails to return the DHS-542, MiCAP Redetermination Form.

Note: Eligibility factors are the same at application and redetermination.

Eligibility for MiCAP begins the first day of the month the application is received in the MiCAP unit via U.S. mail, fax or local office referral. The begin date of the benefit period for MiCAP is always the first day of the application month. There is no proration of benefits.

Benefit Amount

The amount of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits MiCAP individuals receive is determined by their total shelter expenses, (shelter plus heat and utility expenses). If an individual's total shelter expenses are below \$1,000, the FAP benefit is \$171 per month. If the total shelter expenses are equal to or exceed \$1,000, the benefit amount is \$185 per month.

NONFINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FACTORS

Residence

An individual must be a resident of the State of Michigan. Individuals are considered residents if they live in Michigan and intend to remain in Michigan.

Age

An individual must be age 18 or older.

Concurrent Receipt of Benefits

An individual cannot receive both MiCAP and FAP in the same month.

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FACTORS

Group Composition

The MiCAP group is always a group of one.

Assets

There is no asset test.

Income

There is no income test.

**ONGOING
ELIGIBILITY**

Once eligible, eligibility continues unless an individual:

- Loses SSI eligibility.
- Moves out of state.
- Is ineligible due to a change in the SSA living arrangement code.
- Dies.
- Becomes a mandatory member of another active FAP case.

Exception: An adult child, age 18-22, who meets the criteria under MiCAP Targeted Population, may receive MiCAP benefits even if living with parents.

Example: SSI individual has a baby and applies for food assistance benefits at a MDHHS local office. The SSI individual is a mandatory member of the baby's active FAP case so the MiCAP case must be closed.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR
OTHER PROGRAMS**

When a MiCAP individual applies for FAP at a MDHHS local office, contact the MiCAP specialist to request case closure. The MiCAP phone number is 1-877-522-8050.

**REFERRALS TO
MICAP**

The MDHHS local offices may refer an individual to MiCAP. The DHS-513 must be completed and signed by an individual, then sent to the MiCAP unit at:

MiCAP

PO Box 8123
Royal Oak, MI 48906-9985

Applications may also be faxed to MiCAP at 517-324-9919.

CASE TRANSFERS

Do not transfer case records to the MiCAP unit. Retain them at the local office.

MiCAP cases are not transferred to local offices; they remain at the MiCAP office.

LEGAL BASE

Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended

7 USC 2026